

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /084 W
-----049758 270758Z /17

R 270333Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8767
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AF
SUBJECT: REGIME RELEASES HUNDREDS OF PRISONERS OSTENSIBLY
AS PART OF ITS JUDICIAL REFORM PROGRAM

REF: KABUL 5048

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE MUCH BALLYHOOED CEREMONY
SURROUNDING THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS (REFTEL) CLAIM
THE NUMBER OF THOSE FREED WAS MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND.
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH
AMIN PRESIDED AT THE FESTIVITIES -- WHICH CAUSED A
MONUMENTAL TRAFFIC JAM IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA SURROUND-
ING DEHMAZANG PRISON -- AND ACTUALLY SET THE FIRST
MATCH TO HUNDREDS OF CRIMINAL DOSSIERS. THE GENERAL
THEME OF THE SPEECHES GIVEN
BY AMIN AND OTHER MINISTERS
WAS THAT THESE PRISONERS HAD BEEN UNJUSTLY PROSECUTED
BY THE DAOUD REGIME, OR HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO OVERLY
HARSH TERMS FOR THEIR CRIMES. PROMISES OF FURTHER
SUCH RELEASES WERE ALSO GIVEN.

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2. COMMENT. JUDICIAL AND PRISON REFORM IS A
MAJOR PLANK IN THE REGIME'S SOCIAL PROGRAM,
AND THIS WHOLESALE PRISONER RELEASE -- DESPITE
ITS OBVIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS ELEMENTS --
CONSTITUTES A DRAMATIC GESTURE BY THE GOVERNMENT.
WHETHER THE REGIME'S CONCERN FOR PRISONERS' WELFARE

WILL EXTEND TO POLITICAL DETAINEES IT IS HOLDING
AT PUL-I-CHARKHI REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
AMSTUTZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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